Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed from a piezoelectric ceramic ~~ceramics~~ having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Sr and Ln) as a main component, ~~and~~

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent;

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~0.8~~1.3 to ~~4.7~~4.2 ~~μm.~~ μm; and

a maximum value Q_{max} of "Q" (Q = |X|/R, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 24 MHz is 8 or larger.

2. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric element ~~ceramics~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, ~~and~~ wherein "α" satisfies $\alpha = 1-\beta$, "β" satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq$ ~~0.50~~0.50, and "γ" satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.50$.

3. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric element ~~ceramics~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed from a piezoelectric ceramic having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Ca, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Ca and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; ~~and~~

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~1.0~~1.4 to ~~4.5~~4.2 ~~μm.~~ μm; and

a maximum value Q_{max} of "Q" (Q = |X|/R, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 60 MHz is 6 or larger.

7. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 6, wherein said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ca_{1-\beta}Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, ~~and~~ wherein "β" satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and "γ" satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.20$.

8. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 6, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by a piezoelectric ceramic ~~ceramics~~ having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Ba, Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Ba, Sr and Ln) as a main component, ~~and~~

an oxide of Mn and an oxide of Ge as a subcomponent;

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~0.4~~1.0 to ~~3.2~~ ~~μm.~~1.7 μm; and

~~μm.~~1.7 μm; and

a maximum value Q_{max} of "Q" (Q = |X|/R, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to the fundamental wave of thickness-shear vibration at 8 MHz is 23 or larger.

12. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ba_{1-\alpha-\beta}Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and

"α" satisfies $0.1 \leq \alpha \leq 0.6$, "β" satisfies $0.05 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and "γ" satisfies $3.90 \leq \gamma \leq 4.30$ in said composition formula.

13. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 11, wherein

a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO, and

a content of said oxide of Ge is 0.05 to 0.5 wt% in terms of GeO_2.

14-15. (Canceled)